

May 20, 2004: House Passes 2005 Defense Authorization Bill

HOUSE DEFENSE BILL PASSES WITH \$2.25 BILLION IN WEAPONS SYSTEMS FUNDING IMPACTING SOUTHEAST ALABAMA MILITARY JOBS

By a 391 to 34 vote, the U.S. House of Representatives passed the \$422 billion 2005 National Defense Authorization Act Thursday with \$2.25 billion in weapons spending impacting Southeast Alabama, Congressman Terry Everett, R-Rehobeth, announced.

"I was pleased to vote for this legislation which provides significant funding for weapons systems that positively impact hundreds of Southeast Alabama jobs and funds continued aviation training and mission enhancements for Fort Rucker and Maxwell Gunter," said Everett, a senior member of the House Armed Services Committee.

"As chairman of the House Armed Services Subcommittee on Strategic Forces, I was pleased to personally shepherd funding for a number of missile systems which when taken together will lay the groundwork for future job expansion at Pike County's Lockheed Martin," Everett said.

"I was also pleased to support full funding for the Army's aviation training school which is the lifeblood of operations at Fort Rucker."

The 2005 Defense Authorization Act not only provides a badly-needed 3.5 percent pay raise for military personnel, but also helps military survivors through the elimination of the "Widow's tax" of the Survivor's Benefit Plan.

Fort Rucker - U.S. Army Aviation Center:

Flight Training -- \$575.4 million approved in the House defense bill for Army flight training, including Army Aviation Flight School XXI at Fort Rucker.

Unmanned Systems Initiative -- \$10 million approved to support battlefield command and control of multiple unmanned vehicles. As the Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) proponent for the Army, Fort Rucker will benefit from this program.

Cairns Hanger, AAF - \$750,000 for preliminary planning and design for a new hanger at Cairns Army Air Field at Fort Rucker.

Maxwell Air Force Base - Montgomery:

Riverside Heights - Authorizes a land swap between the City of Montgomery and Maxwell Air Force Base to enable future growth at the military facility. The Maxwell Heights property would be turned over to the City while Riverside Heights would be deeded to Maxwell for future development.

187th Air Guard - Montgomery Regional Airport:

187th Air Guard Unit -- \$772,000 for preliminary planning and design for the 187th's new composite operations and training facility at Montgomery Regional Airport.

GKN- Tallassee and Montgomery:

UH-60M Army Black Hawks -- \$397.3 million to purchase 35 (27-L model and 8 Mike-model) Black Hawk (UH-60) helicopters for the Army. Composite parts for these aircraft are made at GKN in Tallassee and Montgomery.

Lockheed Martin - Pike County:

Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) -- \$897 million for further research, development, production and testing of all components of the new Terminal High Altitude Aerial Defense system (THAAD). This total includes \$47 million in additional funding secured by Congressman Everett to reduce program risks and prevent schedule delays. Lockheed Martin in Pike County will begin production of the THAAD anti-missile system on May 26th.

Joint Air to Surface Standoff Missile (JASSM) -- \$175 million for continued research and development of this program and the purchase of 360 JASSM's by the Air Force.

Non Line of Sight-Launch System -- \$76.4 million for the continued research and development of this high-tech weapons program. Of the \$76.4 million authorized, \$27.3 million is specifically designated for development of the Loitering Attack

Missile (LAM) which will be produced in the future at Pike County's Lockheed Martin facility.

Hellfire Missile-- \$42 million to purchase 500 Hellfire missiles for the Navy and Marine Corps. The Hellfire is assembled at Lockheed Martin in Pike County. Hellfire is the anti-tank missile system used in Army and Marine Corps helicopters.

Javelin Missile -- \$16 million to build 200 Javelin missiles for the Army National Guard. Javelins are partially-assembled at Lockheed Martin in Pike County. Javelin is a shoulder-fired portable anti-tank missile used by the Army and Marines.

JKM - Eufaula:

Phalanx Close-in Weapon System (CIWS) 1B Kits -- \$34 million was approved in the 2005 House National Defense Authorization Act to buy and install Phalanx Block 1B upgrade kits for 22 mounts during overhaul, ensuring the most rapid installation of this critical Fleet anti-terrorism protection. The CIWS Block 1B upgrade will better protect our naval vessels from close-in anti-cruise missiles as well as terrorist threats presented by small boats and low flying aircraft. This work will be partially-performed in part at JKM in Eufaula.

The National Defense Authorization Act (HR 4200) must now go to conference with the U.S. Senate to work out differences between the two bills. The final version (2005 National Defense Authorization Act Conference Report) will come before the House and Senate for a final vote later this year.